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July 7, 2021

Tracy Renaud
Acting Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
20 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20529

Dear Director Renaud,

I write today urging U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to immediately address the backlog of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program applications. Without timely approval, DACA applicants are unable to live and work legally in the only country they've ever called home.

The delay in processing DACA applications—which comes after years of uncertainty for Dreamers and their families—is deeply concerning. Based on a USCIS agency report, only 763 DACA requests have been approved from January to March of this year, meaning less than 2% of all applications received were approved during this time period¹. These delays have contributed to a backlog of over 55,000 DACA applications pending review and leave some applicants in California waiting almost a year to receive a decision². My constituents have no insight into the status of their pending applications.

For the almost 200,000 Dreamers in California, the DACA program allows them to fully participate in our community—to obtain drivers licenses, open bank accounts, and find jobs that lead to financial independence. Through this program, Dreamers not only contribute to the economy, but they enrich the communities around them. They are our friends, our essential workers helping keeping America fed and safe during this pandemic, and they are our family. When rebuilding our economy after this pandemic, we must ensure that Dreamers aren't left behind and can fully participate in the current recovery.

Considering these delays, I demand that the USCIS accelerate the DACA application processing, as well as provide my constituents with an updated timeline for those applications still under review. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Josh Harder
Member of Congress

¹ USCIS, [Number of Form I 821D. Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals - Requests by Intake and Case Status, by Fiscal Year](#). June 22, 2021.

² USCIS Case Processing Times for requests for Deferred Action, 1-821D at California Service Center. Accessed on July 6, 2021 at <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/>